

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2003

The reported domestic primary aluminum production in January was 242,078 metric tons (t). The average daily production rate was 7,809 t, slightly higher than that of the previous month and 15% above the rate for January 2002.

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased slightly from 66.12 cents per pound in December 2002 to 66.25 cents per pound in January 2003, according to Platts Metals Week. Platts Metals Week also reported that the annual average price for primary aluminum ingot decreased from 68.84 cents per pound in 2001 to 64.87 cents per pound in 2002. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) fluctuated during January. The price range began the month at 49–51 cents per pound. On January 7, the buying price range increased to 50.0–52.5 cents per pound. On January 10, the price range fell to 49.0–51.5 cents per pound. On January 24, the price range narrowed to 50.0–51.5 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month. According to Resource Recycling's Container Recycling Report, the average monthly transaction price for aluminum UBCs increased from 52.4 cents per pound in December 2002 to 53.2 cents per pound in January 2003.

2002 U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption in 2002 increased 8% compared with those of 2001. Imports were higher in two of the three categories detailed in table 6: Metal and alloys increased 9% and semifabricated materials increased 17%, but aluminum scrap imports decreased 6%. Imports of metal and alloys from Russia increased significantly in 2002 but Canada remained the largest shipper of aluminum to the United States, supplying more than half of total U.S. imports in 2002.

Total aluminum exports in 2002 were at the same level as those for 2001. Canada, China, and Mexico were the major recipients of U.S. aluminum materials, accounting for more than 80% of total U.S. exports in 2002.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased from 66.25 cents per pound in January to 68.75 cents per pound in February. On February 4, the American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs increased to 51–53 cents per pound. On February 10, the price range increased by a half penny to 51.5–53.5 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery 2/			Imports for consumption			Total new supply 3/	Total stocks, end of period 4/
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2002 p/	2,707	1,810	1,170	2,980	2,790	797	3,590	9,280	1,320
2002:									
January	210	147	102	249	272	58	330	789	1,290
February	197	141	93	234	205	52	257	688	1,270
March	220	153	99	252	223	62	285	757	1,330
April	216	148	96	245	221	65	286	747	1,310
May	228	154	98	252	221	76	297	777	1,280
June	225	150	95	245	263	71	334	805	1,320
July	238	145	100	245	228	74	302	785	1,310
August	237	157 r/	101	258 r/	279	77	356	851	1,350
September	227	157	99	257	235	70	305	788	1,370
October	235	160	103 r/	263 r/	196	67	263	761 r/	1,360
November	232	151 r/	97	248 r/	264	64	328	807	1,370
December	241	144	89 r/	233 r/	186	61	247	721	1,320
2003:									
January	242	153	108	261	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

3/ Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

4/ Includes scrap; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery
2002 p/	1,800	1,340	871	754	820	761	134	122	6	6	3,630	2,980
2002:												
January	150	111	80	69	62	57	11	10	1	1	303	249
February	146	108	69	60	61	56	11	10	1	1	287	234
March	152	113	79	69	64	60	11	10	1	1	307	252
April	150	112	71	62	63	58	13	12	1	1	298	245
May	152	113	73	63	68	63	13	12	(2/)	(2/)	307	252
June	150	112	65	56	70	65	12	11	(2/)	(2/)	298	245
July	149	111	66	56	74	69	9	8	(2/)	(2/)	299	245
August	151	112	76	66	74	69	11	10	1 r/	1 r/	313	258 r/
September	150	112	78	68	72	67	11	10	(2/)	(2/)	311	257
October	151	113 r/	79	68	77	71	11	10	(2/)	(2/)	318 r/	263 r/
November	149	111	71	61	71	66	11	10	(2/)	(2/)	302	248 r/
December	147 r/	109 r/	64	55	64	60	8 r/	7 r/	(2/)	(2/)	286 r/	233 r/
2003:												
January	165	125	70	60	71	66	10	9	(2/)	(2/)	317	261

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN JANUARY 2003 1/

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	138,000	165,000	104,000	125,000
Integrated aluminum companies	70,000	70,000	60,400	60,400
Independent mill fabricators	58,900	70,700	55,000	66,000
Foundries	8,680	10,400	7,790	9,340
Other consumers	360	432	360	432
Total	276,000	317,000	228,000	261,000

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN 2003 1/

(Metric tons)

	January			
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts 2/	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Solids	37,600	72,300	80,900	29,000
Can stock clippings	1,780	18,400	18,400	1,850
Other clippings	5,520	11,300	11,100	5,650
Borings and turnings	4,430	18,700	18,500	4,600
Dross and skimmings	2,760	34,300	34,300	2,760
Total new scrap	52,100	155,000	163,000	43,900
Old scrap:				
Used casting, sheet, clippings	11,500	45,500	45,400	11,700
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,910	2,240	2,160	1,990
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	29,000	55,700	55,100	29,700
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	3,510	9,770	8,860	4,420
Total old scrap	46,000	113,000	111,000	47,800
Sweated pig	159	909	909	159
Total all classes	98,300	269,000	276,000	91,800

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR
2003 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

	January			
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing
Die-cast alloys:				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	4,540	1,450	1,490	4,500
380 and variations	5,620	32,600	32,300	5,870
Sand and permanent mold:				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,160	4,060	4,060	3,160
No. 319 and variations	10,200	11,100	11,200	10,100
F-132 alloy and variations	2,520	1,700	1,700	2,520
Al-Zn alloys	630	59	59	630
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	91	168	168	91
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	--	191	191	--
Other 3/	5,040	8,890	8,890	5,040
Wrought alloys:				
Extrusion billets	10,700	17,600	17,900	10,400
Total all alloys	42,500	77,800	78,000	42,300
Less:				
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	6,270	XX	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	3,570	XX	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	457	XX	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot 4/	XX	67,500	XX	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

1/ Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

2/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

4/ No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 2002 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December
Argentina	7,630	82,300	192	773	75	479	7,900	85,500
Australia	5,940	95,500	--	108	--	125	5,940	95,700
Bahrain	1,650	18,200	2,310	19,100	--	--	3,960	37,200
Belgium	--	(2/)	432	8,670	--	450	432	9,120
Brazil	7,640	41,000	383	2,910	301	14,800	8,330	58,700
Canada	109,000	1,580,000	30,400	453,000	23,600	293,000	164,000	2,330,000
France	25	1,160	569	6,280	473	3,520	1,070	11,000
Germany	100	2,360	5,410	61,000	213	4,970	5,720	68,300
Ghana	--	--	--	--	1,510	9,230	1,510	9,230
Hungary	--	--	269	8,580	--	--	269	8,580
Italy	--	80	235	2,520	22	42	258	2,640
Japan	52	548	836	9,150	--	249	888	9,950
Korea, Republic of	5	3,510	351	5,450	--	99	356	9,060
Mexico	282	4,690	1,130	15,100	5,910	62,000	7,320	81,800
Netherlands	34	440	177	2,710	--	1,570	211	4,730
Norway	132	3,810	18	125	--	--	151	3,930
Russia	23,700	634,000	4,880	60,800	156	25,400	28,700	720,000
South Africa	--	15,900	3,580	31,900	--	8	3,580	47,800
Spain	9	624	4	244	--	--	14	868
Sweden	--	4	155	3,040	42	185	197	3,230
Switzerland	1,690	11,700	454	3,650	--	100	2,140	15,500
Ukraine	--	--	--	20	--	--	--	20
United Arab Emirates	6,710	61,200	--	--	154	777	6,860	61,900
United Kingdom	425	1,230	341	7,870	238	4,490	1,010	13,600
Venezuela	17,900	203,000	2,800	21,800	353	7,330	21,100	232,000
Other	2,640	28,600	6,060	71,600	2,670	37,200	11,400	137,000
Total	186,000	2,790,000	61,000	797,000	35,700	466,000	283,000	4,060,000

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 2002 1/

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December
Australia	--	126	132	1,870	19	592	151	2,590
Belgium	18	340	398	4,220	--	59	417	4,620
Brazil	1	116	3,300	29,300	--	18	3,300	29,500
Canada	6,890	97,800	33,700	471,000	10,400	202,000	51,000	771,000
China	14	114	2,950	32,300	20,800	206,000	23,700	238,000
Czech Republic	--	(2/)	(2/)	36	--	12	(2/)	48
Dominican Republic	--	35	51	630	--	--	51	665
France	13	113	719	5,120	3	8	735	5,240
Germany	35	1,410	308	2,810	57	264	400	4,480
Hong Kong	10	162	285	4,060	663	8,190	958	12,400
India	(2/)	242	16	269	490	5,360	507	5,870
Israel	43	123	96	1,450	16	43	154	1,610
Italy	--	14	72	1,960	--	39	72	2,010
Japan	126	3,350	596	9,060	2,320	27,100	3,040	39,600
Korea, Republic of	82	725	565	7,540	2,690	43,900	3,340	52,200
Malaysia	21	83	54	599	--	533	75	1,220
Mexico	8,920	98,800	9,260	114,000	4,220	85,300	22,400	299,000
Netherlands	13	129	37	800	--	314	50	1,240
Russia	--	19	--	30	--	9	--	58
Saudi Arabia	--	(2/)	999	14,500	--	--	999	14,500
Singapore	19	239	48	2,040	--	194	67	2,470
Spain	13	74	73	865	--	501	85	1,440
Sweden		(2/)	92	716	--	5	92	722
Taiwan	13	233	619	6,430	1,670	27,200	2,300	33,800
Thailand		1	633	8,940	61	831	694	9,780
United Kingdom	69	647	599	8,890	71	661	738	10,200
Venezuela		6	424	7,900	--	1	424	7,900
Other	80	664	1,790	28,800	450	4,450	2,320	33,900
Total	16,400	206,000	57,800	766,000	43,900	613,000	118,000	1,590,000

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.